Disable Persons on Board of Banks

4574. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed the nationalised banks/commercial banks to have a disabled nominated on the Board of Directors with a view to represent them under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1996; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken by banks thereon.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Nomination of directors on the Boards of public sector banks is made in accordance with the provisions of the relevant statutes governing such nominations. These statutes do not specifically provide for appointment of disabled persons on the bank's Board of Directors.

Sale of Coal

4575. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal produced at Kamptee, Sillewara Group of Mines and Saoner Mines are sold to other customers whereas two major power stations Koradi and Khaparkheda are connected by ropeways to Sillewara Group of Mines and Kamptee Collieries;

(b) if so, whether the irrational sale of coal from these mines to the customers other than Koradi and Khaparkheda power stations, leading to extra freight expenditure, unnecessarily for transport of equivalent coal from Bilaspur in Madhya Pradesh and Sambalpur in Orissa to these Power Stations; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Coal from these mines is also required to be supplied to linked industrial consumers in the Vidharba region of Maharashtra, besides being despatched to Koradi and Khaparkheda Power Stations of Maharashtra and Sarni thermal power stations of Madhya Pradesh as per the quarterly linkages sanctioned by the Standing Linkage Committee (shrot-term). Some of these industrial consumers have traditionally been lifting coal from these mines. Besides the quality of coal required by these industrial consumers cannot be met from alternate sources. The coal production in these mines is also not adequate to meet the full requirement of Koradi and Khaparkheda power stations and transportation of coal from sources in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa is inevitable.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply given to (a) and (b) above.

Sericulture Projects

4576. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government in respect of introduction of sericulture projects in the States;

(b) the work done so far under these projects particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the production of silk in the A.P. during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of silk yarn?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). The programmes/projects for implementation/ expansion/development of sericulture in the States are primarily undertaken by the concerned state Governments. The interested States can avail of the assistance/technical opinion of the Central Silk Board (CSB) in project formulation as also on the feasibility of taking up such programmes with reference to agro-climatic conditions. The States can also avail of the benefits of various programmes being implemented by the CSB for extending R & D, extension, training & infrastructural support for the development of sericulture.

Although the CSB has from time to time taken up a number of sericulture development projects (both for mulberry and non-mulberry) in various States, the major projects which have specifically benefitted Andhra Pradesh are National Sericulture Project, Indo-Swiss Mulberry Development Project and Swiss assisted Inter-State Tasar Project. These projects have helped in expansion of sericulture and creation of necessary infrastructure in the State and Andhra Pradesh currently ranks second among the silk producing States of the country.

(c) The production of raw silk in Andhra Pradesh during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 was 2229, 2451 and 2364 (provisional) tonnes respectively.

(d) Under the existing Export-Import Policy there are no restrictions on export of silk/silk yarn. However, in order to maximise foreign exchange earnings, the Government encourages export of value added silk products.